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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Washington DC 20460

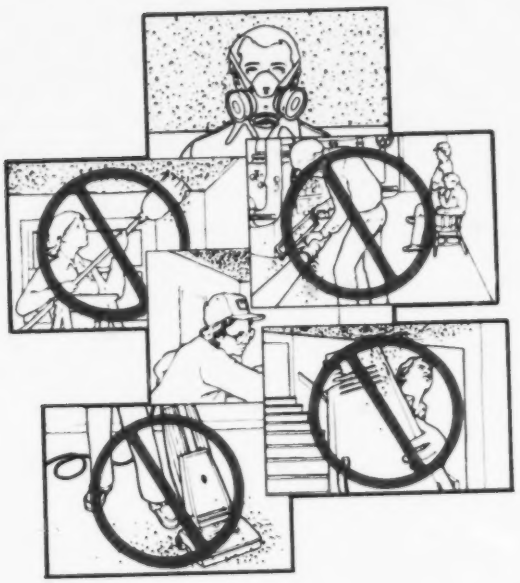
EPA 560/5-85-018
July 1985

Office of Toxic Substances

EPA

Asbestos in Buildings

Guidance for Service and Maintenance Personnel



EP5.8:

READEX FICHE best copy available

Definitions

Technical terms used in this booklet.

Asbestos: A mineral composed of small, thin fibers. It is common in many building materials.

Cementitious: Materials that are hard and usually rough-textured or cement-like in appearance.

Friable: Materials that can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure.

HEPA: (High Efficiency Particulate Air.) A special type of filter that can trap asbestos fibers.

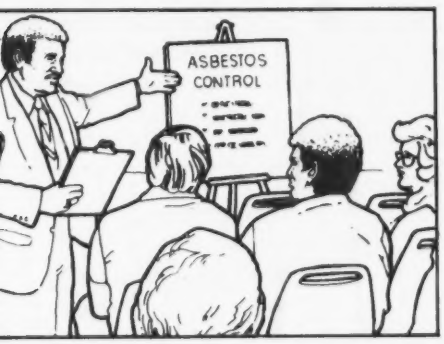
roduction

to work safely in buildings that contain asbestos

booklet has been prepared by the
ed States Environmental Protection
ncy to assist service and
ntenance personnel in implementing
cial Operating and Maintenance
cedures in buildings containing
estos. The information is extracted
n "Guidance for Controlling Asbestos-
taining Materials in Buildings" (EPA
)/5-85-024).

ou follow the steps in this booklet
will:

rotect the health of people using the
uilding
rotect your own health.



here is asbestos in your building, you
uld ask your supervisor for training on:

Asbestos-related hazards
How to avoid releasing asbestos fibers
into the air
How to avoid breathing asbestos
fibers by proper use of respirators
How to handle asbestos materials.

Health Risks

Avoid breathing asbestos fibers.

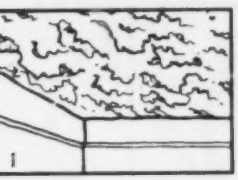
Breathing airborne asbestos fibers has been associated with

- Asbestosis—a serious lung disease
- Lung cancer
- Mesothelioma—a cancer of the lining of the lung or abdominal cavities.

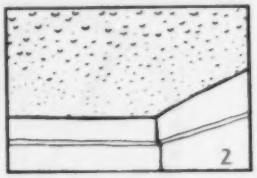
Airborne asbestos levels in buildings are much lower than those in industrial workplaces where serious health effects have been observed. However, it is still important to minimize exposure to asbestos fibers, by following proper work practices.

Recognizing Asbestos Materials

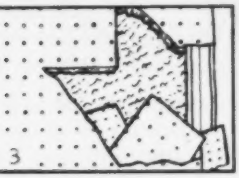
become familiar with the types of materials that ould contain asbestos.



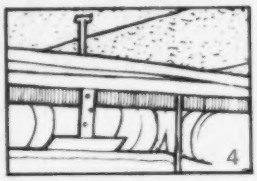
1. Friable, fluffy sprayed-on material (fireproofing).



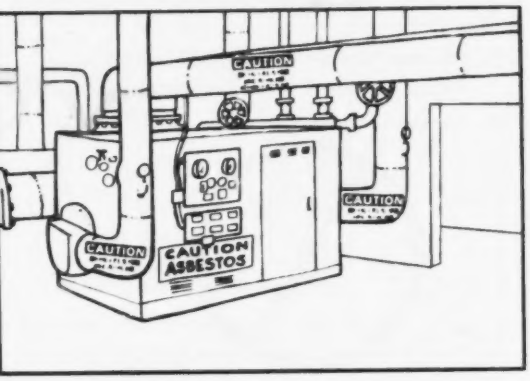
2. Friable, cementitious sprayed-on or troweled material (acoustical plaster).



3. Perforated, nonfriable wallboard with friable sprayed-on material behind.



4. Friable fireproofing material on beam with pipe insulation below.



Do not overlook the boiler room

- Boilers and pipes are often insulated with asbestos materials
- The walls and ceilings of the boiler room may be covered with asbestos material.

Disturbing Asbestos Materials

Avoid touching or disturbing asbestos materials on walls, ceilings, pipes or boilers.

- **Do not** drill holes in asbestos materials
- **Do not** hang plants or anything else from ceilings covered with asbestos materials.

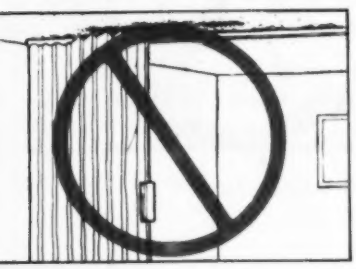
- **Do not** pin or hang pictures on walls covered with asbestos materials.

- **Do not** sand asbestos floor tiles or backing material.

bestos fibers can be released when the
terial is disturbed.

Do not damage asbestos material while moving furniture, etc.

Do not disturb asbestos material when replacing light bulbs, etc.



Do not allow curtains, drapes or dividers to damage asbestos materials.

Cleaning

Improper cleaning can stir up asbestos fibers.

NOT THIS

- **Do not** dust with a brush.

- **Do not** dry sweep floors.

e care when cleaning rooms that contain
estos materials.

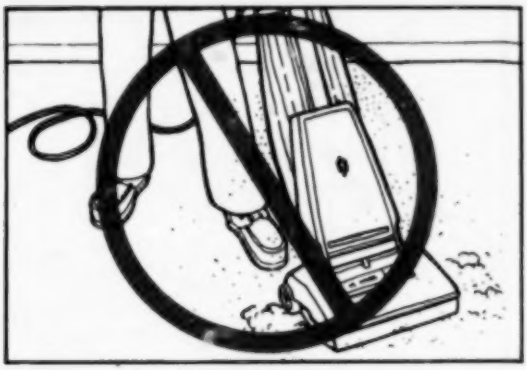
BUT THIS

Dust with a damp cloth.

Wet mop floors.

Cleaning

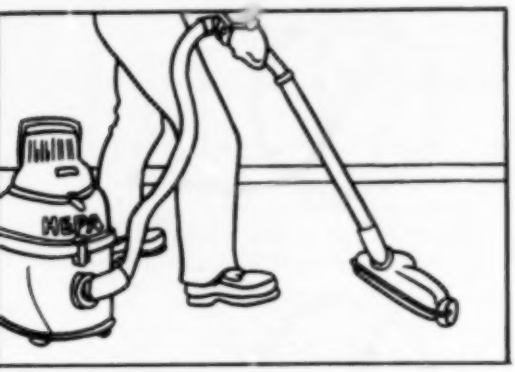
NOT THIS



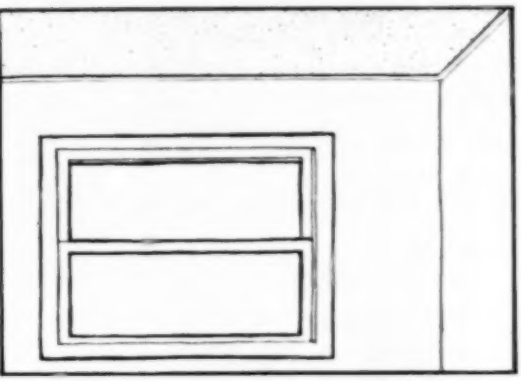
- **Do not** use an ordinary vacuum to clean up asbestos debris.

- **Do not** brush or sweep ceilings an.. walls covered with asbestos materials.

BUT THIS



- Use only a special HEPA vacuum to clean up asbestos debris.



- Avoid touching or disturbing ceilings and walls covered with asbestos materials.

General Maintenance

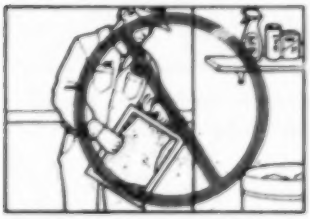
Take care when doing routine maintenance jobs around asbestos materials.

NOT THIS

- **DO NOT** use a dust mask. It does not protect you against asbestos fibers.

If you have to remove ceiling tiles below asbestos material

- **DO NOT** start work without protection.
- **DO NOT** allow other people in the area.
- **DO NOT** leave dust and debris after you have finished.



If you change filters in the Air Ventilation System:

- **DO NOT** remove the filter dry.
- **DO NOT** shake the filter. Asbestos fibers could be released.

BUT THIS

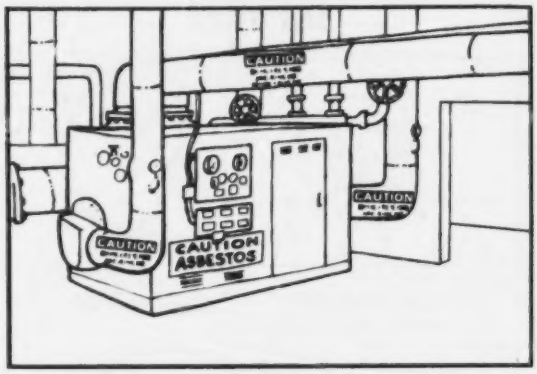
Wear a respirator that is approved for work with asbestos.

Wear an approved respirator
Clear the area of other people
Use a drop cloth and clean up carefully after each job.

Mist the filter with water
Remove the filter carefully
Dispose of properly.

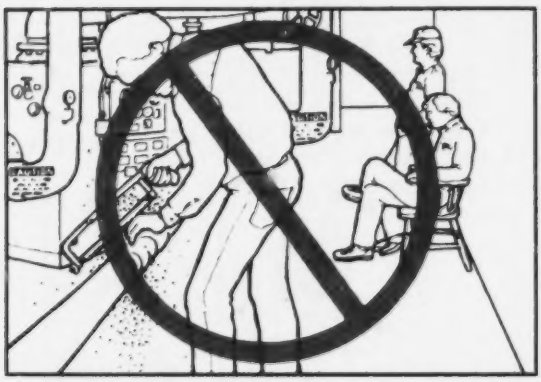
Boiler Room Maintenance

Take special care when working in boiler rooms



- Suggest that pipe insulation that contains asbestos be labeled with "CAUTION-ASBESTOS".

NOT THIS



If you have to repair boilers or pipes that have asbestos insulation:

- **DO NOT** start work without protection.
- **DO NOT** allow other people in the area.
- **DO NOT** allow asbestos material to fall on the floor.
- **DO NOT** allow asbestos fibers to be released into the air.

Report all damage you see to your supervisor
Obtain instruction on how to repair damaged insulation.

BUT THIS

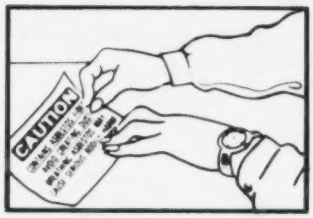
Wear an approved respirator.
Clear the area of other people.
Use a drop cloth.
Use a glove bag (Ask your supervisor for details).
Clean up carefully.

Disposal

All cleaning materials and other asbestos waste must be disposed of properly.

- Place all dampened filters, cloths, mopheads and other asbestos wastes in double ply (6 mil) plastic bags.

- Seal the bag with heavy duty tape.



- Label each bag with a sign: "CAUTION: Asbestos Waste".

- Place the sealed and labeled bags with other solid waste material for pick-up and delivery to an approved waste disposal site
- Asbestos materials should be disposed of according to Federal and local regulations.

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the risk of exposure to asbestos

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your supervisor for training in
per ways to work around asbestos
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p on hand items useful for working
or around asbestos materials.
se include:
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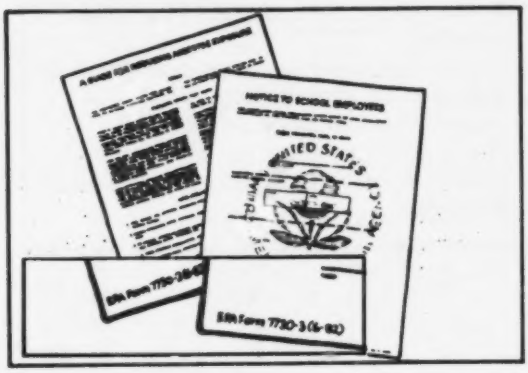
ools for working on insulation
lisposable coveralls
ropcloths
vater bottles for misting filters, etc.
love bags.

Further Information

How to get more details



- If you work in a school and have not received these documents—ask your supervisor for them.

If you need more information:

- Refer to EPA publications
- For copies of this and other EPA documents on asbestos call 800-424-9065 (554-1404 in Washington, D.C.)
- Contact your EPA regional asbestos coordinator for technical assistance and information on training.

EPA Regional Asbestos Coordinators

Region 1
(617) 223-0585

Maine
Vermont
New Hampshire
Connecticut
Massachusetts
Rhode Island

Region 2
(201) 321-6668

New York
New Jersey
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

Region 3
(215) 597-9859

Pennsylvania
Maryland
Delaware
Virginia
West Virginia
District of Columbia

Region 4
(404) 881-3864

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Region 7
(913) 236-2838

Kansas
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Iowa

Region 8
(303) 293-1742

Colorado
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Montana
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South Dakota

Region 9
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California
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Arizona
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Guam, Am. Samoa

Region 10
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